NOTE X.

ON A NEW DUCK FROM THE ISLAND OF SUMBA

BY

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Amongst a number of unregistered bird-skins in our Museum, which passed through my hands a few weeks ago, I found a Duck from the Island of Sumba with very worn plumage and damaged feet, probably a female or an immature male, which I was unable to identify with any known species. Count Salvadori, to whom I sent the bird for comparison, kindly wrote me that the bird certainly belongs to a new species, but that it is rather difficult to find the right place for it in the system, unless we can dispose of an adult male.

For this reason I do not wish, for the present, to give the bird a definitive generic name, and consequently propose to name it, in honour of Count Salvadori, the author of the recent excellent monograph of the Anseres in the Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum

Anas Salvadorii.

Crown and occiput uniform brownish black, glossed with purplish, but yielding somewhat to metallic green under a certain light; a rather narrow stripe along the hind-neck, and whole upper surface of the body with the inclusion of the scapulars, glossy purplish brown, the feathers on the mantle with a bronzy brown gloss on the terminal edge, giving this part a wavy appearance under

a certain light; rump somewhat darker than the back, nearly purplish black with a strongly pronounced greenish gloss on some of the feathers; wing-coverts rather paler brown than the back, and somewhat tinged with olive, the greater wing-coverts tipped with pearly gray and white, which color forms a rather narrow anterior edge to the alar speculum, while the white posterior edge is formed by the white tips to the secondaries. The alar speculum itself is purplish black, showing, under certain lights, in a strong degree the same metallic green gloss as some of the rump-feathers, while a coppery gloss is entirely wanting; primaries earthy brown, the tips nearly black, with purplish gloss; under surface of the quills pearly gray, outer under wing-coverts buffy white with large earthy brown central spots, the inner ones and the axillaries uniform buffy white; tail cuneate, tail-feathers pointed, brown, all but the two or three uniform centre pairs provided with a distinct double edge of white on the outer web and three to five dirty white cross-bars on the inner. The lower surface is considerably paler brown than the upper, glossed with grayish bronzy brown, especially on the body, and strongly varied with fulvous, giving the whole underparts a rather fulvous appearance. A narrow spot on each side of the front above, and another below the black loral streak, near the lateral base of the bill, a short and narrow line behind the eye, the whole chin and, last not least, a very broad semicircular band between the fore-neck and the chest, white; a malar stripe and the ear-coverts uniform dark brown; the cheeks, the sides of the head, including an indistinct superciliary streak, fore-neck and sides of neck fulvous, each feather very markedly streaked in the centre with dark brown, giving these parts a streaked appearance; feathers of chest brown, edged with fulvous, those of the central part marked in the middle with an arrow-shaped, fulvous mark, those on the lateral parts with a sublateral and subterminal edge of the same color; the feathers on the breast, the sides of

abdomen and the vent with a subterminal fulvous spot on either side of the shaft; centre of abdomen uniform earthy brown, sides of breast dark glossy brown like the back, with fulvous terminal edgings to most of the feathers, flanks nearly uniform dark glossy brown, under tail-coverts also dark glossy brown with broad lateral and terminal edgings, and a distinct shaft-streak of a fulvous color, under surface of tail-feathers like the under surface of the quills. Upper mandible black, with an indication of an orange-red tinge on either side of the horny tip, which latter is rather large and strongly prolonged downward, the edge and lower surface as well as the entire lower mandible yellow; lamellae strongly developed, as in *Nettion castaneum* (Eyt.), but by far not as strongly as in *Elasmonetta chlorotis* (G. R. Gray); feet rather weak, yellow. Wing 22 cm.; tail 8,3; tarsus 4; culmen from the anterior angle of front 3,7; width on the broadest part 1,9.

The bird seems to me to be closely allied to *Nettion castaneum* and *Elasmonetta chlorotis*, though it belongs undoubtedly to a quite different species on account of the want of the dark brown round spots on the lower surface, which are very characteristical in males and females of both mentioned species. From the female of the first it differs, moreover, in the white markings on the face and especially the large white cross-bar which separates the fore-neck from the chest, further in the want of the broad white space on the greater wing-coverts, in the want of the coppery gloss on the three central secondaries, in the pale edgings and bars to the tail-feathers, and in the much broader and stouter bill, which latter character alone would be sufficient to distinguish both species from each other. To *Elasmonetta chlorotis* our bird shows some affinities in the presence of the white band between fore-neck and chest, this band is, however, much wider in our bird, the bill is much broader and stouter, the lamellae are less strongly developed, and the whole bird is much larger than the New Zealand species.

This is the third species of Duck known from Sumba, the first two, *Mareca punctata* (*Nettion castaneum* Salvad. Cat. B. Br. Mus. XXVII, p. 252) and *Anas superciliosa*, being enumerated by Dr. Meyer, Verh. z.-b. Ges. Wien, 1881, p. 767.

The suggestion of our bird being a product of interbreeding between either of both mentioned species with a domestic Duck may be freely excluded, were it only for the single reason that the white band across the fore-neck is much broader than in any domesticated descendant of *Anas boschas*.

With this bird the number of species, at present known from Sumba, is brought to 65.

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